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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of William M. Parrott

Atty. Docket No: (Old: 008193-20001)

(New: 42390,P12216)

Appln. No.: 09/385,607

Group Art Unit: 2137

Filed: August 30, 1999

Examiner: Callahan, Paul E.

Title: SECURE TRANSACTION MODEM STORING UNIQUE INDICIA

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

BRIEF ON APPEAL

Pursuant to Appellant's Notice of Appeal filed on September 26, 2005, Appellant presents this Brief in appeal of the Final Rejection dated March 24, 2005.

T. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST.

Intel Corporation is the real party in interest.

H. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES.

There are no related appeals or interferences before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences or related judicial proceedings known to Appellant, the Appellant's legal representatives, or assignee that will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS.

Claims 1-27 have been pending in the application. Claims 22-27 have been cancelled leaving claims 1-21 as the only pending claims remaining. Claims 1-21 stand finally rejected and are the claims subject to this appeal, which are reproduced in Appendix A.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS.

Appellant submitted an Amendment on June 23, 2005 subsequent to the Final Office Action of March 24, 2005. The Amendment only presented two proposed drawing changes to address specific drawing objections in the Final Office Action. No amendments to the claims were presented. In the Advisory Action dated August 5, 2005, it was indicated that Appellant's amendment would not be entered prior to Appeal because it raised new issues requiring further consideration and raised the issue of new matter. The Board is respectfully requested to instruct that this amendment be entered as no new issues or new matter have been presented as Appellant has only attempted to comply with the specific requests made in the Office Action.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER.

The inventive embodiments generally relate to secure online transactions conducted with a modem. (Specification pg. 1, ll. 12-13). The integrity of online transactions have been the subject of much concern. There has been a growing need to authenticate or otherwise validate the identify of participates in online commerce transactions. (Spec. pg. 1, ll. 19-20). Embodiments of the present invention relate to a modem with integral identification indicia that

can be accessed by communications software such as the operation software of the modem and transmitted to a host to validate the identity of a user. (Spec. pg. 2, II. 21-23).

Referring to Fig. 2, a modern 40 may include a microprocessor 26 to control operations and manage communication with a host computer. Modern 42 may also include a memory (e.g., flash ROM 42) to provide storage space for storing indicia 44 of an identification of a user. (Spec. pg. 12, ll. 13-20). The modern software is modified to transmit the identifying indicia, preferably in encrypted form, when required to validate a transaction. By providing identifying indicia within memory that can only be altered by overwriting the modern program, it becomes difficult to counterfeit the identifying indicia or the secure modern. (Spec. pg. 13, ll. 4-11).

In one embodiment, the identifying indicia may be stored into modem 40 after the manufacturing process and stored by, for example, a financial institution issuing the modem or that will process the financial transactions. In a generalized embodiment, a compressed image or other authentication indicia might be stored within a non-volatile memory. For example, an image of a credit card including a credit card number and a signature could be stored in the EEPROM of the modem (Spec. pg. 7, 11, 13-17).

In the example of Fig. 2, the identifying indicia may be stored in memory space 44 and might be an image of a user's credit card, complete with signature and preferably the image of the credit card holder stored in a widely accepted data format such as a .pdf format. (Spec. pg. 13, 11. 23 to pg. 14, 11. 1-3). The embodiments are therefore related to a personalized modem capable of storing identifying indicia unique to the modem. (Spec. pg. 3, 11. 1-2).

A method of communicating via modem 40 is also shown and described in reference to Fig. 3 and pg. 14, ll. 7-13, which generally includes communicating the identifying indicia to a transaction server 52 as needed to authenticate or validate a transaction. These specific embodiments are provided by way of example and those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that modification, variations and extensions of the particular embodiments are possible without varying from the fundamental teachings of the present invention. (Spec. pg. 14, ll. 15-19).

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL.

The only issue for consideration on this Appeal is:

A. Whether claims 1-21 were properly rejected under the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed subject matter.

VII. ARGUMENT.

A. APPELLANT'S CLAIMS ARE FULLY SUPPORTED BY THE APPLICATION AS FILED.

LEGAL STANDARD

It is well established that the objective standard for determining compliance with the written description requirement is "does the description clearly allow persons of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that he or she invented what is claimed." *In re Gosteli*, 872 F.2d 1008, 1012 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

In determining whether the description requirement is met, the examiner has the initial PAGE 8/15* RCVD AT 11/28/2005 4:43:25 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/31* DNIS:2738300* CSID: * DURATION (mm-ss):04-12-gmize in

Appellant's specification generally discloses that a compressed image could be used for authentication purposes of the inventive embodiments (Spec. pg. 7, ll. 13-14) and that identifying indicia may be personalized to the user (Spec. pg. 3, ll. 1-2). Further, Appellant expressly describes an example identifying indicia to include an image of a credit card complete with signature and preferably the image of the account holder (Spec. pg. 13, ll. 23 to pg. 14, ll. 2). Appellant respectfully submits that simply because the disclosure discusses a preferred embodiment where various image information is be used for authentication purposes as a combination, it does not mean the skilled artisan would not recognize each could alternatively be used individually, particularly where each type of information that could be used is explicitly disclosed.

While admittedly, Appellant does not expressly describe all potential combinations or every individual type of graphics information that could possibly be used for authentication, Appellant believes the skilled artisan would clearly recognize from the disclosure that Appellant invented what is claimed, thus it is believed the objective test regarding compliance with the written description requirement is fully satisfied. Further, since there has been no attempt to explain why the skilled artisan would not recognize various images could be used other than in combination, particularly in light of the specification explicitly disclosing that variations and modifications to the specific embodiments are possible (Spec. pg. 14, 1l. 15-19), Appellant believes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is improper and should be overturned.

Appellant lastly points out that, while not necessarily pertinent to the Board's decision, the limitations in question were individually presented by claim amendments (e.g., new claims 22-27) on December 13, 2003. The new claims were not only were entered into the record by the previous examiner (having signature authority) without objection, but were also indicated as including allowable subject matter. (See Appellant's amendment of December 17, 2003 and subsequent Office Action dated March 12, 2004). Appellant subsequently amended the claims of this application based on the previous examination record only to now find these claim limitations do not meet the written description requirement. Respectfully, Appellant believes it should be entitled to a reasonable degree of consistency in examination of the same application or, if the rejection is sustained, be entitled to a refund of all fees paid in the course of relying on the necessarily flawed examination record of a previous examiner.

VIII. CONCLUSION.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the foregoing all of the pending claims are patentable and the Board is respectfully requested to overturn the rejection of record and allow this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted.

Stuart A. Whittington Appellant's Attorney

Registration No. 45,215

Intel Corporation

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Date: November 28, 2005

APPENDIX A (Claims on Appeal)

- 1. (Previously presented) A secure communications method, comprising:
 providing a modem capable of storing identifying indicia unique to the modem,
 wherein the identifying indicia includes graphics data, the graphics data comprising an
 image of at least one of a credit card, a signature, or an account holder; and
 providing communications software stored within the modem, capable of
 transmitting identifying indicia to a communications line.
- 2. (Original) The secure communications method of claim 1, wherein the modem stores the identifying indicia integral to the modem.
- 3. (Original) The secure communications method of claim 2, wherein the identifying indicia comprises bits accessible by processing circuitry of the modem in a read operation, the process circuitry reading the bits prior to causing the bits to be transmitted over the communications line.
- 4. (Original) The secure communications method of claim 3, wherein the bits are stored within a memory array.
- 5. (Original) The secure communications method of claim 1, comprising a process for permanently fixing the identifying indicia in circuitry of the modern.
- 6. (Original) The secure communications method of claim 5, wherein the process for permanently fixing comprises blowing fuses.
- 7. (Original) The secure communication method of claim 5, further comprising encrypting the identifying indicia prior to causing the identifying indicia to be transmitted over the communications line.

APPENDIX A (Claims on Appeal)

- 8. (Original) The secure communications method of claim 1, wherein the identifying indicia are stored in the modern within a memory associated with a program memory of the modern.
- 9. (Previously presented) The secure communications method of claim 8, wherein the identifying indicia are writable only when the program memory is overwritten.
- 10. (Original) The secure communications method of claim 9, wherein the identifying indicia are formatted as compressed graphics data.
- 11. (Previously presented) A secure communications modem, comprising: a program memory adapted to store a program controlling aspects of modem operation; and

a processor, coupled to the program memory, the processor executing at least a portion of a program stored in the program memory to control at least an aspect of modem operation,

the program adapted to cause the processor, under control of the program, to read identifying indicia stored integrally within the modem and communicate the identifying indicia to a host communicating with the modem, wherein the identifying indicia includes graphics data, the graphics data comprising and image of at least one of a credit card, a signature, or an account holder.

12. (Original) The modem of claim 11, wherein the identifying indicia are stored in an indicia memory physically or logically adjacent the program memory.

APPENDIX A (Claims on Appeal)

- 13. (Previously presented) The modem of claim 11, wherein the identifying indicia are stored in an indicia memory, the indicia memory writable only when program memory is written.
- 14. (Original) The modem of claim 11, wherein the identifying indicia are stored permanently within the modem.
- 15. (Original) The modem of claim 11, further comprising means for encrypting the identifying information prior to communicating the identifying information to the host.
- 16. (Original) The modem of claim 14, further comprising means for encrypting the identifying information prior to communicating the identifying information to the host.
- 17. (Original) The modern of claim 15 wherein the identifying indicia are stored within a write once memory array and are accessible in a register read operation by the processor.
- 18. (Original) The modern of claim 14, wherein the identifying indicia identify an aspect of a financial transaction account.
- 19. (Original) The modem of claim 11, wherein the identifying indicia include an account number for a financial transaction account.
- 20. (Original) The modem of claim 11, wherein the indentifying indicia are stored in nonvolatile memory within the modem.

APPENDIX A (Claims on Appeal)

21. (Original) The modern of claim 20, wherein the identifying indicia are stored in a compressed format.

Claims 22-27. (Cancelled)